

Wm Chas. Gumpfer

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME IV.

FORT WAYNE, IND., FEBRUARY, 1892.

NUMBER 2.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

Services are held for the present at the church parlors on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Later, during the Easter season these services will be held each evening during the week, except Saturday evenings. The members of the church have been requested by the pastor to do special personal work during the progress of these meetings, and on Friday evenings report what they have accomplished for the Master during the week. At a recent Friday evening service a number of members gave reports of their work. Some said they had gone personally and talked with some of their unsaved friends about their salvation. Others reported that they were praying for some of their friends, and intended doing so until they would give their hearts to Christ. Some made requests for prayer for themselves and for their friends. We shall hope to see the church awakened, and every one going out in search of some friends who are out of Christ, and plead with them until they will accept the Lord. Within the last few months one of our members has been successful in bringing four of his friends into the church. How delighted this brother must feel in seeing these fruits of his labors. But why cannot every member of Grace Church engage in like work for the Master? What a glorious work would be accomplished if each one might within the space of one year bring four of his friends or neighbors into the church. How greatly our members would be multiplied, and how the Lord would be honored by our service. The Lord is calling for laborers. The call comes to us, "who shall I send, and who will go for us?" Who is willing to respond to this urgent call? Who will say, as did the prophet, "Here am I, send me." Hundreds of our friends and neighbors are unsaved. Are we not responsible for their condition? Many of them will cheerfully respond to the gospel's call if only some one would care for their souls, and encourage them to come to Jesus. Who will be next to have it written to his

account that through his entreaties or prayers four more souls have been added to the church. One of the first acts of an old man after his conversion was to prepare a list of all his former associates living within his reach. For the salvation of those he resolved to labor and pray. There were one hundred and sixteen in the number, and among them were skeptics, drunkards, and others. Through the prayers and efforts of this man, one hundred of the individuals are said to have been saved. What a grand work this man achieved, but such a work is possible for us all. A man lay dying. He had been saved at the eleventh hour, and dreaded not to meet death, but the thought of having wasted his past years in sowing to sin and to folly, and of never being instrumental in the salvation of one soul, filled his heart with grief, and he passed away exclaiming, "Must I go empty handed."

Fellow Christian, wake up. Go to work. Open your lips and speak for Christ. Do not waste your life in idleness and folly. We are living in the midst of so many perishing souls, and shall we at last meet our Master empty handed. Let us have some trophies to cast at his feet when he comes.

METHODS FOR SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

At a meeting of the officers and teachers of the sabbath school and members of the church held after the services Wednesday evening, March 16th, topics of Sunday-School work, and especially "How to Increase the Attendance at Sabbath School," were talked over. The meeting was enthusiastic and many capital suggestions were offered. A special and vigorous effort will be made to increase the membership of the Sunday School. There are evidently many children and young people available to the school if only a persistent effort would be made to gather them in. To encourage the children to seek out their associates who can be secured for the Sunday school as regular attendants, it was decided to give rewards to those who are willing to do this kind of missionary work for the church.

This is what has been decided upon:

1st. Every one who will secure a new scholar for the Sunday school will be furnished with a certificate, giving the name of the new scholar and date when brought into the school and by whom.

2nd. The new scholar will also be furnished with a certificate bearing his name and date of enrollment.

3rd. On the last Sabbath of the quarter a Recognition Service will be held, when the names of the scholars who entered the school during the quarter will be publicly announced and by whom they were brought, and the person bringing the largest number of new scholars into the school in the quarter will be awarded a first prize, viz: A handsome teachers Bible. A second prize will be awarded to the person bringing the next largest number of new scholars into the school. These new scholars must become regular attendants at the school.

Any person may compete for these prizes, young and old. And it does not matter who these new scholars shall be, children, adults or parents, rich or poor. It would be a matter of great rejoicing if some of our children could induce their parents to come with them to the Sabbath school. Due recognition will be given to every one bringing new scholars and to every new scholar that may enter the school.

New scholars will be promptly assigned to classes, and the teachers are requested to give more earnest and prayerful attention to the matter of retaining the scholars in their classes. If any scholars have been absent for one or more Sabbaths from the class, teachers are requested to visit these scholars and learn the reasons why they have been absent, and if possible secure their attendance again.

Teachers' meetings for conference and lesson study will be held on Wednesday evenings after the prayer meeting.

Later, committees are to be appointed who shall make a special canvass, with the object of securing new scholars for the Sunday school, and families for the church, who may at present have no church homes.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: Rev. A. K. Zartman, F. D. Paulus, and D. W. Souder.

Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter. Feb. 7, 1889.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WOMEN OF GRACE CHURCH.

BY MRS. A. K. ZARTMAN.

There are over one hundred and forty women who are members of Grace Church. Is there any excuse for having a Missionary Society of forty members, and one-half of these so inactive as to seldom be present at the monthly meetings? Dear sisters, old and young, what are you doing with your talents? Are they hidden away in a napkin, or is the world making use of them? Why not give them to Christ?

Why can we not have a Ladies' Prayer Meeting at our homes one afternoon each week? It would surely be the means of reviving some indifferent hearts. It would do us all good. How many will come?

The meeting of the Ladies' Missionary Society on the first Thursday of March was interesting and profitable. Were you there, dear sister? If not, what did you offer to God as an excuse for this neglect of duty.

How much work have we done for Christ since the 1st of January, 1892. How many prayers do we offer for the salvation of souls, and the prosperity of our own dear church? How many personal invitations do we extend to those out of Christ to come with us to the House of God? How many words of sympathy and acts of kindness have we bestowed upon the sick and distressed in heart? If we finish the year as we have begun it what will be its record when 1893 shall dawn upon us? And when life shall be finished must we then go home empty handed, with no sheaves to lay at the Master's feet?

If you have received a statement of your back dues to the Ladies' Society, put it in a conspicuous place so that your eyes may rest upon it daily until you have paid your obligation.

The classical year will soon close, and the Ladies' Society has paid but half of the amount promised for missions. The remaining ten dollars

should be raised soon and sent to the Board of Missions, as funds are much needed.

How much do we give of our income for the spread of the Gospel? If the Lord would give unto many of His professed followers as sparingly as they give to Him how few of the luxuries of this life they would have to enjoy. The world's great preacher, Mr. Spurgeon, gave one-fifth of all his income to the Lord. He left to the world an example of Christian giving worthy of imitation.

Come to the next regular meeting of the Ladies' Society, the first Thursday afternoon in April. Your presence will be an encouragement. You are welcome though you may not be a member. There will be something for you to enjoy. Come prepared to give and receive.

Remember the all-day sewing at the home of Mrs. Louise Miller, Erie street, on the last Thursday of the month, March 31st. Mrs. Miller will furnish dinner and supper for all who come. The gentlemen are expected to come for their supper, with a liberal contribution for the ladies' treasury. Let all the ladies' of Grace Church and any others who may desire attend. There will be enough work to keep you all busy, enough to eat to satisfy all who are hungry. Pleasant and profitable subjects to converse about. Come and be happy.

The inquiry of last Sunday morning from our blessed Master to every member of Grace Church was, "Who shall I send, and who will go for us?" Have you pondered these words in your heart, dear sister? If your husband is not a Christian, who shall the Lord send to bring him to the cross? Are you trying to win him to Christ by Christian example and by a faithful performance of your duties as a Christian? Are you praying for him daily that his heart may be inclined to accept the Savior? Mothers, are your children in the fold? If not shall the Lord send you to lead them into the right path? Your tender love and persuasive power can be the most potent influence in the hands of God to win them for Christ. Dear young friends, are your companions lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God? If so, what are you doing for their salvation? Are you joining them in their chase for worldly joys,—or do you by the quiet Christian dignity of your manner point them to better things in Christ? Let us pray and labor that the church may be divested of

all selfishness, that our hearts may be made pure and our lips touched with a live coal from the altar of God, so that the Master may use us in his service.

Mrs. Magdalena Meehling, residing at Glenford, Ohio, a dear old friend of the pastor and family, and grandmother of Miss Estella Meehling who visited at the parsonage last October, passed peacefully to her heavenly home in the latter part of February. Mother Meehling was one of the Lord's elect; one of the rare jewels of earth. We wish this world might be blessed with the lives of more such amiable and saintly women.

The communion services, held March 6th, were largely attended, and were greatly enjoyed by all present. The following persons were received into the church at this service: By confirmation, Emma Schaaf; baptism and confirmation, Mrs. Annora Christie; by letter, Mrs. Traxler. We are glad to welcome these ladies into our church and we hope they may find a pleasant church home among us.

A special election has been appointed by the Consistory, to be held after the morning service, Sabbath, April 3rd, for the election of one elder, term of office expiring Jan. 1st, 1893. Also one deacon, term of office expiring Jan. 1st, 1895. Every member of the church should be at this election.

March 4th, the pastor's father celebrated his 78th birthday. Father and mother are well preserved and have charge of the old homestead all by themselves. They are as happy as when they first started out in life together. May the Lord add to them yet many more happy days in this life.

We are looking forward to the Easter season with joyful anticipations. Communion services will be held on Easter morning, preceded by special services during the week previous. Applicants for church membership will be received on Easter morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, Mrs. Zartman's parents who have been spending the winter at the parsonage, have returned to their home at Canton, Ohio. It is very lonesome without them. It is hoped they may soon again make a visit to this city.

The young people want to see you at their Social Thursday evening March 24th.

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Sabbath evening, - - - - - 7:30
Sunday School, - - - - - 9:30
Y. P. S. C. E. Prayer meeting Sab. evening 6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening - 7:30
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It only costs 25 cents to send the VISITOR for one year to some friend in the city or abroad.

An all-day sewing and social at the home of Mrs. Louise Miller, Thursday, March 31st. Dinners and suppers.

Jay F. Cooper and Lorena Carethers were married at the parsonage, Thursday A. M., March 15th. They will reside in the city.

Perry Archer has been seriously ill, and has not been at his place of business for nearly a week, but as the VISITOR goes to press he is reported as being much better.

DEATHS.

Monday morning, Feb. 29th, Mrs. George L. Hobson, residing two miles north of the city, passed peacefully away from her family and friends to join the great company of the Redeemed in Heaven. For several years past Mrs. Hobson had been in failing health, though able to be about until within the last four or five months. Since then she had been confined to her room. Though afflicted with that treacherous disease consumption, she had been fully apprised of her condition for more than a year past. She was fully conscious that it was only a matter of time as to how long she might be permitted to remain with her family and friends. Having this conviction that her days were numbered, she con-

fidently and prayerfully committed her dear little ones into the charge of her faithful Lord and Master, "who gathers the lambs with his arms, and carries them in His bosom." Having full confidence in the goodness and fidelity of the Lord, she felt fully reconciled to leave her family at any moment the Master saw proper to take her unto Himself. This sister gave marked evidence of her faith in the Lord, and of what the Lord is unto His people in the sorest trials and afflictions of life. She was happy in the most trying moments, and joyful when the chastising hand was resting heaviest upon her.

To her death was no uncertain venture. When the moment came, and the spirit was in the act of taking its flight, her last triumphant declaration was, "The Lord is now receiving my Spirit." Oh that all might be so triumphant in death, and that all might die the death of the righteous. Mrs. Hobson will long be remembered by her friends and neighbors for her affection, her piety, her pure and consecrated life, and her confidence in the Lord.

The funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon, March 1st, at the school house near the home. On the following morning the remains were taken to Hartford City for burial. Two little ones had preceded this mother to the Heavenly Home, while the husband and three children and many other friends remain to sorrow the loss of a dear wife, mother, sister and neighbor.

Lillian Eva, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, residing at 52 Force street, died of bronchitis Friday, March 11th, aged 4 years, 1 month, 18 days. Lillian seems to have been the favorite child in this family. She was affectionate and always happy, and though so tender in years, she had endeared herself to every member of the family. The Lord only plucks the fairest flowers for his garden, and he seems to have come into this home and gathered one of its dearest treasures. It is distressing to part with these dear little ones, but we know that they are forever safe, when once they have been transplanted into the Lord's garden.

The funeral services were held at the home on Sabbath afternoon, March 13th. May the Lord comfort these bereaved friends, and may the treasures which are laid up in Heaven for them, draw their heart's heavenward.

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Prayer Meeting Topics,

March 20. Praise service. Isa.
 12. Eph. 6:19. James Romy.

March 27. Preparing the way of
 the Lord. Isa. 40:3-5. Luke 3:10-14.
 Consecration meeting, Etta Souder.

April 3. The first Psalm. What
 is there in it for me? Psa. 1; Josh.
 1; 8: 1 Thess. 2-13. Nora Romy.

April 10. Christ's Kingdom. Do I
 belong to it? Psa. 2; Mat. 11:11.

Temperance meeting. John Vor-
 dermark.

April 17. Easter thoughts. Matt.
 28:1-8; Heb. 6:19-20. Lillie Walters.

April 24. He leadeth me. How?
 Psa. 23. John 10:4-14. Consecration
 meeting. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Monthly meeting of the young
 people's society, Tuesday evening
 April 5th.

Young people's social, Thursday
 evening March 24, at the Church par-
 lors. Ice cream and cake. A pleas-
 ant time is anticipated. If you are
 beginning to feel old come to this
 social.

As the VISITOR goes to press the
 District Convention of Y. P. S. C. E.
 is in session at Huntington. Miss
 Lillie Vodermark, Miss Etta Souder,
 Eugene Mathis, and John Vodermark
 Jr., are delegates from the Grace
 Church Society. We are confident
 that our young people will return
 from the convention full and running
 over with good things. Sabbath
 evening March 20th, the services will
 be in the interest of the young people,
 then our delegates will tell us what
 they saw and heard. Every person
 should attend this service.

The Pastor's Catechetical Class
 meets Sabbath morning during the
 Sunday school hour. There are about
 twenty in the class. Much interest is
 manifested by these young people in
 learning the catechism.

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 for 92? If not do so at once.

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